

# **CITY OF ROSENBERG**

## **CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

On this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014, the City Council of the City of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas, met in a Special Session, in the Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber, located at 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas.

### **PRESENT**

Vincent M. Morales, Jr.	Mayor
William Benton	Councilor at Large, Position 1
Cynthia McConathy	Councilor at Large, Position 2
Jimmie J. Pena	Councilor, District 1
Susan Euton	Councilor, District 2
Dwayne Grigar	Councilor, District 3
Amanda Bolf	Councilor, District 4

### **STAFF PRESENT**

John Maresh	Assistant City Manager of Public Services
Linda Cernosek	City Secretary
Joyce Vasut	Executive Director of Administrative Services
Jeff Trinker	Executive Director of Support Services
Travis Tanner	Executive Director of Community Development
Angela Fritz	Executive Director of Information Services
Tonya Palmer	Building Official
Karl Zwahr	Utilities Director
Lisa Olmeda	Human Resources Director
Randall Malik	Economic Development Director
Luis Garza	Finance Supervisor
Maritza Salazar	Budget Analyst
Wade Goates	Fire Chief
Tracie Dunn	Assistant Police Chief
Kaye Supak	Executive Assistant

**The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed below, as authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.**

### **CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Morales called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE.**

*Citizens who desire to address the City Council with comments of a general nature will be received at this time. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments.*

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE FOR CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS.**

*Citizens who desire to address the City Council with regard to matters on the Consent Agenda or Regular Agenda will be received at the time the item is considered. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Comments or discussion by the City Council Members will only be made at the time the agenda item is scheduled for consideration. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments.*

### **AGENDA**

1. **CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON THE 2014 CERTIFIED PROPERTY TAX ROLL OF \$1,783,738,912.00, NEW PROPERTY VALUES OF \$40,984,989.00, APPRAISED VALUE OF ALL PROPERTIES OF \$2,268,973,988.00, AND THE ANTICIPATED COLLECTION RATE OF 100%.**

**Executive Summary:** The Fort Bend County Tax Assessor/Collector, Patsy Schultz, requests that the City Council acknowledge in the minutes receipt of the Certified Appraisal Roll Totals, the Value of New Property, and the Anticipated Collection Rate for the 2014 Tax Year.

Staff recommends that City Council accept the Certified Appraisal Roll Totals, the Value of New Property, and the Anticipated Collection Rate for the 2014 Tax Year as presented by the County Tax Assessor/Collector.

**Key discussion points:**

- Joyce Vasut, Executive Director of Administrative Services read the Executive Summary regarding the item.

**Questions:**

**Q:** Is it realistic to have 100% collections on the taxes?

**A:** It is in the policy when we budget to budget 97%. Our collections are usually 99%.

**Action:** Councilor Bolf made a motion, seconded by Councilor McConathy to approve the 2014 Certified Property Tax Roll of \$1,783,738,912.00, new property values of \$40,984,989.00, appraised value of all properties of \$2,268,973,988.00, and the anticipated collection rate of 100%. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. **CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION TO PLACE AN ACTION ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 02, 2014, TO VOTE ON A TAX RATE INCREASE AS COMPUTED UNDER STATE GUIDELINES WITH A PROPOSED TAX RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$0.49 PER \$100 VALUATION.**

**Executive Summary:** Chapter 140 of the Local Government Code and Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code require taxing units to comply with Truth-in-Taxation laws in adopting their tax rates. These laws were designed to make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals and to allow taxpayers, in certain cases, to roll back or limit a tax increase. Beginning with Tax Year 1998, any increase in property tax revenue requires the taxing unit to vote to place a proposal to increase tax revenues on the Agenda of a future meeting as an action item.

The City's current tax rate is \$0.50 per \$100 valuation. Based on the 2014 effective tax rate calculation (see attached), the 2014 effective tax rate is \$0.478172. Thus, adopting the proposed rate of \$0.49 is considered a tax increase which requires the City Council to vote to place a proposal to increase tax revenues on the Agenda of a future meeting as an action item and to publish a Notice of 2014 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate for City of Rosenberg and hold two (2) public hearings on the tax increase. These items are summarized in the attached timetable.

A presentation will be provided at the meeting regarding the tax rate. Staff recommends placing an action item on the Agenda for September 02, 2014, to vote on a tax rate increase as computed under state guidelines with a proposed tax rate not to exceed \$0.49 per \$100 valuation and to set two (2) public hearings as required by the Tax Code. The next Agenda item will set the public hearing dates.

**Key discussion points:**

- Joyce Vasut read the Executive Summary regarding the item and provided a copy of a handout to Council.

**Questions:**

**Q:** When the effective tax rate is published can we show the current rate and advise the tax rate is going down?

**A:** The normal effective tax rate will no longer be published.

**Q:** Why can't the tax rate go down to \$.47?

**A:** In order to fund all the departmental requests, the majority of Council directed staff to fund as many of the supplemental requests as possible. If we went back to \$.51 cent tax rate the citizens could petition for a rollback election.

**Action:** Councilor McConathy made a motion, seconded by Councilor Benton to approve placing an action item on the Agenda for September 02, 2014, to vote on a tax rate increase as computed under state guidelines with a proposed tax rate not to exceed \$0.49 per \$100 valuation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 01, 2014, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**

**Executive Summary:** Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code requires that taxing units comply with Truth-in-Taxation laws during the tax rate adoption process. These laws were designed to make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals and to provide an avenue for comment. Thus, staff is recommending that the following dates be set to receive public comment regarding the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014, and ending September 30, 2015:

Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

Should these dates be approved by City Council, Agenda items to accommodate the public hearings will be included on the City Council Agendas for the meeting dates as indicated. Additionally, the required notices will be published in the newspaper to give the public the proper notification.

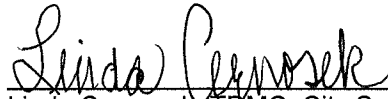
**Key discussion points:**

- Joyce Vasut read the Executive Summary regarding the item.

**Action:** Councilor Benton made a motion, seconded by Councilor McConathy to set public hearing dates related to the proposed ad valorem tax rate for the fiscal year beginning October 01, 2014, and ending September 30, 2015 on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. and August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. **ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business Mayor Morales adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.



Linda Cernosek, TRMC, City Secretary